

ECNA- 191

MAY 23 1953

Chief of Base, Berlin

Chief of Base, Bonn

Operational/CANDRY/CALL

Resumption of Free Exchange
of News Media

INFO: Chief of Mission, Frankfurt

Attn: ☐

Chief, ☐

Attn: ☐

Chief, Pullach

REF: A. ECNA-1799
B. ECNA-4674

1. This is to advise that REMORNIL, during a contact on 20 May, also brought up the subject of the above references. He merely stated that he had information that the Soviets might possibly propose the reactivation of the Kulturabkommen and that this would pose very serious problems for the West Berlin newspaper publishers. On the other hand, REMORNIL would actually not be at all adverse to such a development if the Western Allies are prepared to subsidize the West Berlin and West German publications so that they are able to overcome the conversion differential without financial loss to themselves. REMORNIL feels that if the Allies do this and if the Soviets should actually be prepared to allow Western newspapers to circulate freely in the GDR, it will be possible to propagandize the Soviet Zone very much more extensively and with much less danger to West Germans willing to collaborate in such propaganda efforts. REMORNIL feels that if the financial difficulties can be overcome, the West only stands to gain propaganda-wise.

2. REMORNIL stated that GAWLEY was the source of his information.

3. ☐ has informed this Base orally of a talk he had with a WICOG official about this subject. ☐ talk was subsequent to the writing of Reference 1, and it appears that WICOG has, in the meantime, come to a tentative but positive decision on this matter. ☐ stated that he would shortly advise you more fully in a separate dispatch.

26 May 1953

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